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Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
Darby Ranger District
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59829

JUL 30 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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July 28, 2007

Re: Ravalli County Road Dept. Request to Reactivate Lost Horse Creek Quarry

Dear District Ranger Oliver,

I waited to attend the Public Hearing held at the Commissioners' 7/23/07 before I submitted my written comments about this subject. I wanted to hear from the officials and get some balance and hard data from the group.

I was disappointed that the Road Dept. had little to offer to educate me or answer the tough questions about alternative sites that might and should have been considered. I really was not satisfied that we heard the real costs, which should include not only comparative costs analysis to other sites and materials but costs to diminished recreational opportunities. Also there are neighborhood costs, including but not limited to: **road safety issues** (school bus route; heavy two-way traffic by large, heavy trucks on a narrow, curvy road and ingress and egress risk factors on the Highway 93/Lost Horse Intersection, and width of road easement issues); **impact on air quality** (dust from added truck travel on the narrow Lost Horse Road; and **water issues**. For example, how will local irrigation ditches be affected by possible road widening?

The public comments against this project, including the very few NIMBYs who certainly have the obvious right to be a NIMBY, showed me great concern and deeper thought than the County's Road Supervisor. Granted, this quarry has been in existence for many years and never abandoned. However, times do change and the use of this area has greater multiple uses than it did 50 years ago.

Mining and quarries are contentious since someone nearby always is affected and reacts in the NIMBY fashion. But in this case, I do believe many folks other than the immediate neighbors are concerned that this is the wrong place for such a project.

I am hoping the Commissioners require a complete overview of their road materials resources and sites and that a comprehensive analysis be taken of the whole County for using these resources. Citizens may be more willing to share the personal costs and neighborhood sacrifices of having a gravel pit/quarry activated nearby if they feel it is guaranteed to be short term in operation, other sites will be identified and used, that their site is not the only one and there is a direct long-term benefit/incentive to them personally or their neighborhood that can off-set the real or perceived costs.

Thank you.

Vicky Bohlig 310 Geneva Ave. Hamilton